

Briefs

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East Hoke Middle School presents their "A" Honor Roll: David P. Alexander, Michael J. Ambrisco, Joanne Blank, Janice M. Bledsoe, Clifford R. Chewing, Jessica E. Clarke, Daniel Coward, Shanonn E. Gibson, Jeremy Green, Cindy M. Gregory, Latosha A. Harris, Megan Hudgens, Adam B. Jacobs, John F. Johnson, James A. Kellermann, Jessica A. Kellermann, Russell S. King, Tiffany L. Kitynsky, Stephen R. Lamm, Shane P. Lawson, Jennifer Lee Lewis, Jessica M. McClellan, Anna M. McMillian, Heather McPhail, Vanessa M. Miller, Robert Wayne Moore, Angela F. Morris, Billie M. Morris, Jessica C. Mort, Brian Olson, George D. Page, Cynthia D. Pledger, Damien Lee Purvis, Curtis A. Quick, Lawrence Quinnett, Sara E. Rich, Sebastian M. Riddle, David A. Rockholt, Robin Shiflett, Jennifer Tarrance, Elvin T. Tatum, Amara S. Thorne, Jennifer L. Timmerman, Nichole M. Anderson, Shondell Bethea, C.D. Bratcher, Melissa R. Burns, Alisha J. Campbell, Julian K. Chandler, Samantha Clark, Appline F. Cooper, Krystal D. Cooper, Krystal Cunningham, Ashlee N. Green, Shanise A. Hadley, Peter Hannon, Tonia Jones, Darnell Lewis, A.K. McClinnahan, Darius D. McIntosh, Anthony K. McLeod, Jarius Latara McNair, Oneka D. Monroe, Brian O. Redwine, Christian A. Rhodes, Tashara Ross, T.L. Washington, Blaine J. Way, Kimberly R. Wiggins, Jurenda J. Willis, Nicole D. Winston, Melissa D. Bebb, Brandon Bullard, Carla Clark, Angelica Marie Dial, Timmy J. Jacobs, Alison M. Jones, Zandra Dean Maynor, Mellette A. Pate, Hiren Patel, Rosalynn R. Rogers, Latasha L. Smith, Jose O. Charlesworth, Angelyn Guzman, Melissa Guzman, Fabian E. Liscano, Francisco Lucas, Therese E. Panis, Bianca I. Ramos, Yvonne V. Rosario, Andy A. Walker.

Parents consider year-round schools

By Kristin Guthrie
Staff writer

Surveys recently distributed to the parents of children in traditional school settings, may greatly influence the decision of just how many schools in the county change to a year-round schedule.

The Hoke County Board of Education will have the final say in the matter. The surveys will help them make a decision based on what the majority of the parents want.

The board asked all of the traditional schools except Hoke County High School to send out a relatively simple survey about school scheduling. The survey asked the parents who have children at each of these schools to comment on whether they wanted their child's school to become year-round or not.

The parent could answer "yes, I want my child's school to become year-round next year" or "no, I do not want my child's school to become year-round." There was also a space for additional comments parents wanted to explain their response.

Darlene Clark, principal at Rockfish Hoke Elementary School, said she has received the majority of the surveys for her school back already and the response has been significantly more in favor of going year-round.

With just a few surveys left to be received, she said that at least 62 percent of the surveys said "yes."

"Of those who said 'no' to year-round school, the majority were concerned about different schedules," Clark said.

She explained that some parents say it is inconvenient to have two children on two different schedules especially if the older child usually takes care of the younger sibling.

If day care is really the issue, Upchurch School Principal Hank Richards said the year-round school system provides day care during breaks.

"When school's not in session we provide day care for the kids. We are closed just two weeks at Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter and Fourth of July," Richards said.

Richards said that over the four years that he has been at a year-round school, he has known several cases where scheduling conflicts have occurred, but parents have always made

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—Kristi Posey

whatever sacrifices were necessary to keep their child in year-round school.

Hanks and Kristi Posey, assistant principal, agree that the positive aspects of year-round schooling far outweigh the negatives. Posey explained the things that make a year-round schedule more attractive than a traditional schedule.

"Having more frequent breaks throughout the year allow the teachers and children to return to school more refreshed," she said. "Their schedule provides a three-week break after each nine week session and a five-week break during the summer. There's still plenty of summer there for the kids to enjoy."

During the three week breaks, the year-round schools provide several options for the children. During the first week of the break, children who are lagging behind in a particular subject can take remediation classes. Children who take this session must be recommended by their teacher.

"This is in lieu of summer school — that's four weeks in June," Posey said.

During the second week of the break, students can be involved in enrichment activities. This session is used as a time to expand upon what they have been doing in the classroom. Frequently they take a field trip or do other entertaining activities that offer a break from the usual routine, but still involve academics.

During the final week of the breaks, the schools doesn't offer any formal programs, but they do provide day care for those who need it. In fact there is child care provided during all of the breaks except the holidays noted above, so they take care of the child's needs during regular school days, at their after school program and during the breaks.

There is a charge for the enrichment program and the day care, but the cost is less than having to pay for day care all summer, says Posey, as is the case for parents who need child

care for their children who attend traditional schools.

Overall parents don't seem to think the idea of year-round schooling is questionable; they just have personal conflicts.

"They don't argue about the philosophy of the program they just have some problems with some minor details, major to them," said Richards.

Other parents want to make sure the year-round schedule extends to middle school as well. Clark said some of her school's surveys have indicated that parents are concerned with custodial time as mandated by the courts. Problems could arise in the case of a divorce situation where one parent has been awarded the right to keep the child during the summer months when the child is normally out of school.

If a parent wanted their child in year-round school system, Clark said the courts would have to amend their visitation time so that the rights would stay the same for both parents, just altered to fit a new schedule.

The question is just how many parents want to make the necessary changes to enroll their children in a year-round program. Surveys from all the traditional schools are due to the Board of Education by the first week in February.

The opinions of the parents will be disclosed soon, but Scurlock School received information an additional way. They held a forum last night to try to receive more feedback from the parents of students at their school.

Scurlock School Principal Parnell Miles said Richards and South Hoke Elementary Assistant Principal Toma Jacobs were on hand to give their perspective on the year-round schedule based on their experiences.

After all the parental opinions are gathered they will be sent to the board. The next step will be to wait to see what the board decides to do with the information.



Reading is fundamental
Upchurch Elementary School's first grade students participated in their first RIF distribution.

Business Brief

Construction Systems Inc., announced this week that George "Butch" Cashman of Rockingham has joined the staff of the Lumberton-based general contractor.

Cashman will work as a sales representative, marketing the company's

services to industrialists seeking to construct or expand facilities in several countries across North and South Carolina.

Cashman's area of responsibility will include Marlboro, Dillon and Chesterfield counties in South Caro-

lina and Scotland, Hoke, Robeson, Cumberland, Moore and Richmond counties in North Carolina.

Prior to joining the staff at CSI, Cashman spent 25 years working in commercial and industrial sales and construction in Scotland County.

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